sports Beamer, Cuddyer head latest Virginia Sports Hall of Fame class

THE SHOT

DAY 4
CHAPTERS 6 AND 7
Defense lawyers face a parade of witnesses in orange jumpsuits.
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The Virginian-Pilot

Wednesday | *Our 152nd year* | **11.15.17** | **PILOTONLINE.COM** | $1 in Hampton Roads; $1.50 in outlying areas

LISA MERKLIN PHOTOILLUSTRATION | THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

Haunted by a post

AT LEAST ONE FACEBOOK POST by a Beach detective is being investigated for racial bias – and it could affect cases.

By Jane Harper
The Virginian-Pilot

VIRGINIA BEACH

The Police Department is investigating at least one potentially racist comment a detective posted on his Facebook page, and it could affect pending and future cases he's involved in, according to police and prosecutors.

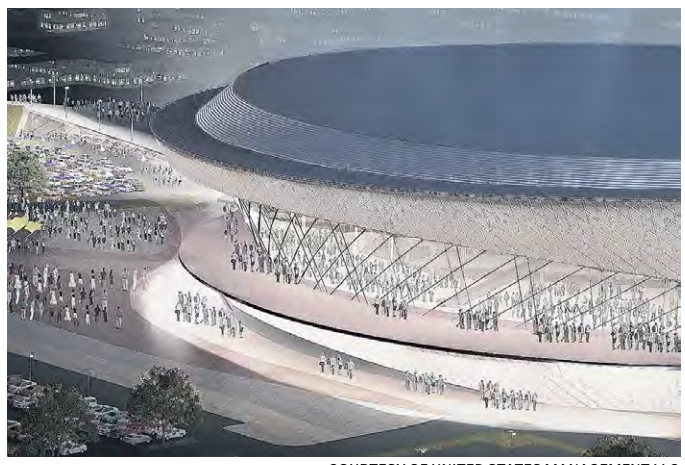
The statement became an issue during a court hearing last month for a 15-year-old charged with killing another teen in a drive-by shooting this summer. The teen is black; the detective is white.

The teen's lawyer asked a judge to dismiss the charges against his client, in part because he said Detective Kevin Fanelli's social media post showed racial bias. The judge denied the motion, saying the evidence indicated the teen's incriminating statements, not possible bias, led to his arrest.

When asked about the comment during the court hearing,

See **DETECTIVE, PAGE 13**

Developer's attorney says Beach violated arena deal. The city braces for a lawsuit.



COURTESY OF UNITED STATES MANAGEMENT LLC

deal falls through Virginia Beach City Council voted 9-1 last week to terminate the agreement for an 18,000-seat arena. The city says the vote came after Mid-Atlantic Arena LLC didn't meet its Nov. 7 deadline. The developer says it could lose millions.

By Alissa Skelton | *The Virginian-Pilot*

VIRGINIA BEACH

The arena developer's attorney has made it clear the company doesn't plan to walk away without a fight.

After the City Council voted 9-1 to terminate the arena deal last week, Samuel Meekins Jr., who represents Mid-Atlantic Arena, said in an email that the city breached the development agreement. Virginia Beach released Meekins' email Tuesday.

Mid-Atlantic Arena LLC "has invested millions of dollars in this project and stands to lose millions more as a result of the city's wrongful action," Meekins wrote in an email about 20 minutes before the developer's Nov. 7 deadline. "If the city does not honor its obligations, (the company) will protect its interests and will exercise all of its rights and remedies."

See **ARENA, PAGE 14**

STEVE EARLEY | VIRGINIAN-PILOT FILE PHOTO

A federal magistrate found Tuesday there was probable cause to support a kidnapping charge against Eric Brian Brown, 45.

Feds: More DNA evidence links former sailor to Beach teen's kidnapping

By Scott Daugherty | *The Virginian-Pilot*

NORFOLK

DNA evidence ties a Navy veteran to the clothing 19-year-old Ashanti Billie was wearing before she died and the vehicle she was driving before she disappeared, according to a federal agent.

A federal magistrate found Tuesday there was probable cause to support charging Eric Brian Brown, 45, with kidnapping Billie from a Virginia Beach Navy base.

A separate murder charge is pending in Charlotte, N.C.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Randy Stoker declined to comment, as did Keith Kimball and Andrew Grindrod, the assistant federal public defenders.

In court documents, FBI Special Agent James Faulkner has said DNA linked Brown to two samples recovered from Billie's body after she was found Sept. 29 in Charlotte.

See **BROWN, PAGE 14**

the case

The body of Ashanti Billie was found 11 days after she disappeared. Her cellphone was found in a dumpster, and her car was spotted five days later in Ocean View.

the DNA

Eric Brown's DNA matched samples from Billie's car, including on the steering wheel and gear shift, a federal agent says. Earlier, the FBI found DNA on Billie's clothes linking Brown to the crime.

In risky move, Senate GOP inserts repeal of Obamacare into tax plan

a complication

To help fund their tax plan, which slashes the corporate tax rate from 35 to 20 percent, GOP senators inserted an Obamacare repeal with the promise of a bipartisan bill to stabilize health markets. Repeal would save the government an estimated $338 billion over 10 years, but millions would drop health care coverage.

By Lisa Mascaro and Jim Puzzanghera
Tribune Washington Bureau

Senate Republicans took a gamble Tuesday with their tax reform bill, adding a partial Obamacare repeal provision that would free up more money for tax cuts, but also inject significant new political hurdles.

The change, backed by President Donald Trump and a handful of senators, would end the mandate under the Affordable Care Act that all Americans have health coverage. Senate GOP leaders had rejected the idea as too risky to include in their tax package, particularly after the repeated failed efforts earlier this year to repeal and replace the 2010 law.

Repealing the mandate would save the government an estimated $338 billion over

See **TAX BILL, PAGE 14**

Diana Nyad, who swam from Cuba to Florida at 64, speaks in Norfolk
Page 4

SESSIONS ADMITS A MEMORY LAPSE

The attorney general says he "always told the truth" about Russia contacts, but couldn't recall some details

PAGE 8

Three Norfolk public housing communities face demolition. For now, the city wants to make them better places to live.

Page 3

clearing

Highs in the mid-50s. Lowin the mid-40s.

Details on the back page of Sports

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